

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to their attorney, B. Joe Kim, during the telephone interview conducted on October 6, 2005. In the interview, Applicant's attorney argued that "connector 52" shown in Figs. 63 and 64 of the cited Takeda et al. reference cannot disclose the claimed connectors because the connectors of the reference do not mutually connect the electrode patterns, as in the present invention. It was further argued that the slits 21 of the Takeda et al. reference cannot disclose the claimed cutout pattern, because the reference does not show the slits 21 being on the same first electrode as the electrode patterns, as in the present invention. The Examiner advised the Applicant's attorney to file a formal response to the outstanding Office Action so that he can give further consideration to the argument, and at least remove the finality of the Office Action, if warranted. The subject Amendment generally repeats the arguments presented during the interview.

Claim 24 has been amended in a readily apparent manner to address the objections relating to informalities and antecedent basis.

Claims 24-34, 36, 37 and 74 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Takeda et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, because the cited reference does not disclose or suggest the claimed electrode patterns that are mutually connected to each other by connectors. The cited reference also does not disclose or suggest the cutout pattern that is formed on the same first electrode (which is formed on the first substrate) as the electrode patterns.

Among other things, the present invention includes fine pitch electrode patterns 61C which are formed on a pixel electrode 61 (see Fig. 26 and corresponding description on page 40, line 13-page 41, line 14). A connector 61m mutually connects these electrode patterns together.

The Office Action cites connectors 52 as disclosing the claimed connectors of the present invention. The structure referenced by numeral 52 appears in Figs. 63 and 64 of the Takeda et al. reference. The description of these Figures appears on col. 38, lines 2-7, and states that “protrusion 52 is connected to and internally formed with a protrusion arrangement 20A formed on the common electrode 12.” While the Takeda et al. reference does disclose a protrusion 52 extending from protrusion 20A, this protrusions 52 must connect the protrusions 20A to each other in order to disclose the claimed connector which mutually connects the electrode patterns, as recited in claim 24. However, the cited reference does not disclose that such is the case. In fact, Fig. 64 clearly shows that the protrusion 52 does not mutually connect the protrusions 20A with each other. While Figs. 63 and 64 appear to show the protrusion 52 connecting the protrusions 20A and 20B, they are on opposite facing electrodes, and therefore cannot be connected by the protrusion 52 (which is formed on only one electrode surface). For this reason alone, the present invention is allowable over Takeda et al.

Moreover, the slits 21 shown, for example, in Figs. 12A-12C of the Takeda et al. reference do not disclose or suggest the claimed cutout pattern which is formed on the first electrode, on which the fine pitch electrode patterns are also formed. Even though

Takeda et al. disclose the slits 21 and the protrusions 20 they are on opposite electrodes that are spaced apart from each other. Therefore, the reference still does not disclose or suggest the claimed cutout pattern, because both the slits and the protrusions 20 of Takeda et al. are not formed on the same electrode, as required in claim 24. For this reason also, the present invention is believed to be allowable over Takeda et al.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



B. Joe Kim

Registration No. 41,895

October 13, 2005

Suite 2500
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080
Customer No. 24978